A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Obſervations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thurſday, April 12. 1705.

I Receiv'd but two Days ago, a very Ingenious Letter from a Gentleman, who does this Paper the Honour to own himſelf a Convert to theſe Arguments; I have not Vanity enough to publiſh what he is pleas'd to ſay on that Account; but this Gentleman Names a Paper Publiſhed on this Head, to which he owns alſo much of his Information, Entitled, *Some Arguments to prove, That the Vagabond Poor of* England, *cannot be Employ'd in our Woollen Manufactures, without the certain Ruine of the Trade.* I confeſs, I was ſurpriz'd with a certain Pleaſure, to ſee ſomething before me upon this Head; and tho', I confeſs, I never ſaw the Paper, and ſhould be oblig'd to any Body that would help me to it; yet it tells me at firſt thought, that there muſt be ſomething in it very much to the preſent Purpoſes I am upon, and deſtructive of all the Methods lately attempted to ſet the Poor to work.

I farther obſerve, that Paper proceeds to propoſe Remedies in this Caſe, and the Gentleman ſeems to blame me, that I have not done the like. I muſt own I ſomething wonder at that, ſince thro' the Multitudes of Daily Interruption, I have not yet been able to come to the bottom of the Diſtemper, and the Cure is the laſt thing of Courſe to be attempted.

What I have yet advanc'd, I profeſs to be purely my own thoughts of the *Engliſh* Conſtitution in Trade, I neither have conſulted, nor indeed know what has been writ on this Head. Reaſon, the Nature of Things, the Courſe of Trade, and the Hiſtory of Trade, is in every Man's Head, and before every Man's Eyes that has been converſant Abroad, and that knows any thing of General Correſpondence.

If therefore I have Err'd, it is all my own, I am therefore ſo much the more Careful to keep Cloſe to Fundamentals and Principles in Trade, not fearing but to the very laſt Articles I ſhall be juſtify'd by Men of Knowledge and Candor, and ſhall be able to Defend what I Advance in this Caſe, by Reaſon and Experience.

'Tis own'd, I have made a bold Attempt, and Abundance of my Friends tell me, 'tis too hard for me, I ſhall never go thro' it. Pray, Gentlemen, let the Man alone, *his Heart is in it*, and he will certainly work his way thro' it with Diligence and Time.

The Diſeaſes of Trade are Coroded and Rank, this Wood of Trade is grown thick with Bryars and Thorns, and he may ſcratch his Face; *but if he puts his Eyes out, he will yet open yours; let him go on*, he warrants you, he'll go thro', give him but Time, there ſhall not be a Grievance in Trade, but he will find it out for you, not a Croſs-line drawn in the Mathematicks of Trade, but he'll ſhow it you; he will find out all the

Little *Animalculæ* Imperceptible without the Optick-Glasses of Trade, that lie at the Root of Trade, and sucking the Sap, which should nourish the Branches, make it all Wither and Decay.

At least, Gentlemen, Accept his Endeavours, his Attempt, like the Old Wives Plaister to the Neck, which was to Cure the Bishop of a Bone in his Throat; *if it does you no good, 'twill do you no harm*; the Essay must in its Parts be Instructive, if it be not in the whole so Compleat as you desire; 'tis therefore very hard, you will not let him go on.

The Subject of low'ring the Prizes of our Manufactures has been lightly touch'd at in our last, I presume what is there offered, may have so much Self-Evidence as to stand upon its own Foot, till an Occasion of further Debate may bring it in Course to be spoken more fully to.

The Matter of our Neighbours Under-selling us, is now before me: Under-selling, as is noted before, consists in two Tradesmen making Goods of Equal Goodness, but one Selling Cheaper than the other, this 'tis apparent our Neighbours cannot do, in that we have any Trade left, which, if their Goods were as good as ours, and Cheaper, we should dot have

The next part of Under-selling is, when one makes Goods of an Inferiour Nature, and pushes them on the Market by their meer Cheapness, to supplant another ———

This indeed our Neighbours may do, and this they do; but I say, tho' this may hurt us, yet this is not a sufficient Reason, why we should link the Price of our Manufactures to follow their Counterfeits, and so fall the Value with them, which will be the Consequence, and be but Counterfeits our selves. And here,

1. I say, it will be found Impracticable to lower the Price of our Goods, and the Price of Labour, and yet preserve the Quality; the Worth of our *English* Manufacture, is an Intrinsick, not an Imaginary Worth; the Rates of them are stated upon real Foundations, and bare a true proportion to the *Weight, Substance and Excellence* of Workmanship, and I am of the Opinion, no Nation in the World, notwithstanding the Dearness of Wages in *England*, can be found, who bring Manufactures to the Markets Abroad Cheaper than ours, whose Goods are Equal to ours in those three Qualities.

This Intrinsick Value of our Manufactures, is the Glory of our Trade, 'tis to this we owe the being able to carry on our Trade Abroad, in spight of Counterfeits, Starving Manufacturers, and Low-priz'd Navigation; the Reputation of our Goods in Foreign Markets, depends upon their real Worth, and as that has been carefully maintain'd in some of our Goods, those Goods have thereby been preserv'd from Counterfeits and Rivals, even among our selves. 'Twould be in vain for any County or Town in *England*, to Erect the Trade of Bays, tho' they made them lower than *Colchester*, *Bocking*, &c. They are known by their Faces, the Foreign Merchants buy them by the Seal and Marks of the Towns, and know they are not deceiv'd; fair dealing and keeping up to Length and Goodness, has brought the Town of *Colchester* to such a Reputation, that the Buyer will take the Hall-Mark for the Goodness of his Wares he Buys, and preserving their Integrity at Home, has preserv'd their Reputation Abroad.

I cannot think any Man will insist upon it, that it can be for the Intereſt of *England* to Lower the Goodness of the Manufacture, which would be to sink the Reputation at once, which has been so many Ages in gaining.

But should this prepostrous Step be taken, the End would be still Unanswer'd, for the Foreign Goods would fall in proportion.

If you are for Low'ring the Prices, and not the Goodness, tho' I am of the Opinion, that is Impracticable; then,

1. This could not be done so much without positively Starving the Workmen, but that the Foreign Rivals we speak of, by the help of a Cheaper Navigation, and a Cheaper way of Living, would be able to sink their Prices still much beyond us, because they would have several Articles to do it in, we but one.

2. This cannot be done without Low'ring the Rates of our Poors Wages, which I shall Examine more particularly into, to the Satisfaction, I hope, of such as are willing to be satisfied, and as can have Patience to see the End of a Case, before they pass their Censures.

ADVICE

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

OUR Society has often been Desir'd to say something that might be Directory to the Unwary People, who are now liable to be made the Tools of a Party in the Approaching Elections.

They Confess they have a long while Declined it, but as they think they are always Debtors to their Country, for every thing they are Capable of doing for a General Service, so they could by no means resolve against freely speaking their Minds on this Head.

In order to this, and according to their peculiar Province in Censuring Things Scandalous, they resolve to Expose, as far as in them lies, the Horrid Practices now made use of all over the Nation, for the procuring Votes in Elections of Members, being a thing really Scandalous to the Nation, Injurious to the Publick, and at this time particularly, dangerous to the Safety and Peace of this *Protestant* Nation.

And because in the Prosecution of this Purpose, they shall give all such Relations, as merit their place here, their due force; They begin with the following, which indeed requires little Answer, but is so Scandalous in it self, that it requires only to be Exposed: The General Fact is too well known; as to the Particulars they neither know, nor enquire.

Gentlemen,

THE Violent Insinuations and Proceedings to make Voices to Elect Members for the Ensuing Parliament, with the mean Condescention of Persons of Honour and Worth (or which ought to be so) in shaking Hands, Saluting, Imbraceing, Kissing, and keeping Company with Beggars, Chimney-sweepers, &c.——*To gain their Ends, puts me upon desiring your speedy Answer, in one of your* Reviews, *to the following Queries.*

1. " Whether a Person taking a Lease of " Land, at a certain Ground-Rent, for 50 or " 60 Years, and Builds thereon a House worth " 15 or 20 *l. per Annum*, can (according to the " Constitution of our Government) be a Free- " holder, to Elect Members for Parliament? " If not,

2. " Whether —— and —— his Father, " having oftentimes Voted as such Free-holders (tho' often admonish'd to the contrary) " and taken their Oaths on the Holy Evange- " list, and their Names entred in the Sheriff's " Books, are not Perjur'd and Forsworn, and " lie liable to an Indictment for the same?

3. " Whether a Poor Man, never charged " to Church, Poor, nor Queen, but on all E- " mergent Occasions receives Alms of the " Parish, building, a Hut, Cabin, Cottage, or " what you please to call it, on the Common " or Waste, is (as before) a Free-holder, and " capable of Electing Members of Parliament? " ——And,

4. " Whether *Mad Robbin*, being such a " Free-holder, and Headed by the Mob, may " not be set up as a Candidate against—— " Persons, striving (as above, to be Knights of " the Shire?

I desire you'll not call the Orthography of my Writing before you, but the true Intent and Meaning of him, who is a True English*man, and Lover of his Country,*

R. M.

To the first Query the Society Answer, by asking a Question, *tho' that is counted a wrong way of Arguing*, Whether Lease-hold, can be Free-hold? And tho' there are many Instances of this Practice, which are Base in the Manner, and Absurd in the Persons, yet it is doubly a Crime in those, that Contrive or Encourage it, in order to get Votes; are certainly Guilty of the worst sort of Perjury.

2. Without doubt, —— Father and Son, ought to receive the Rewards due to Perjury, when Lawfully Convicted.

3. Cottagers can no more be Free-holders, than Commoners can be Enclos'd; unless the Lord of the Mannor, by such Usage as is agreeable to the Custom of the respective Mannor, has first Legally Declar'd the Premises a Free-hold.

4. As for *Mad Robin*, the Society cannot judge of the Story; but they conclude, If there is such Tacking of Free-holds without Doors, no Wonder we come to Tacking of Clauses within: *English* Liberties may easily come in Danger, when *English* Parliaments are Chosen by

by Sham Free-holders, by Perjury and Subornation: But of this, a larger Scene of Scandal is at hand.

☞ PROPOSALS (*different from all others yet publiſh'd*) for a *Perpetual Aſſurance Office*: Wherein either SEX may Subſcribe, and by Paying 6*l. per Annum*, ſecure an equal Dividend of 10000 *l.* at their Deaths, which in all probability cannot amount to leſs than 500 Pounds, or a much greater Sum, to any Perſon they ſhall Name, beſides 3 *l.* out of every 6 *l.* which they ſhall have Paid, together with other Advantages (during Life) which will reduce every Member's Yearly Payment to leſs than 40 *s.* Subſcriptions are taken, and Propoſals at large given *gratis*, by *T. Matthews* a Printer, and Mr. *Sawbridge*, in Little-Brittain; Mr. *Barnes*'s, in Pall-Mall; Mr. *Nutt*, near Stationers-Hall; Mr. *Straban* and Mr. *Davis* in Cornhill; Mr. *Hodgſon*'s in Holborn; Mr. *Barker* in Weſtminſter-Hall; and Mr. *Cox*, at Temple-Bar, Bookſellers. (*** Note, *That no Money is to be Paid, till the Society be full, and Security given.*) Againſt which, if any Subſcriber ſhall object, he ſhall be at Liberty, whether he will ſtand to his Subſcription, or not.

WHereas it is Aſſerted in ſome Papers, by the YOUNG Widow *Mary Kirleus*, (who was Married to Mr. *John Kirleus* but about 15 Months) that the Secret of Preparing, and uſe of the Famous Dr. *Kirleus*'s Medicines, was only left to her ſaid Husband: Theſe are to inform the Publick, That the Doctor's Son *John Kirleus* was rendred *Uncapable* of *Acting*, by not giving his Mind to Study and Practice in his Fathers Life-time; After whoſe Death the Mother permitted her ſaid Sons Name to be put to Advertiſements, &c. but ordered and prepared the Medicines her ſelf all her Son's Life-time, which was not above five Years after the Death of his Father the Doctor; and that the ſaid Dr. *Tho. Kirleus*, out of his tender Affection to his Wife SUSANNA, and for her Maintenance only, left the Secret with the ſaid *Suſannah*. She has liv'd in the Houſe where ſhe now is, above 20 Years, as can be teſtify'd by the Landlord, and moſt of the Neighbourhood, at the Glaſs-Lanthorn in Plough-yard in Grays-Inn Lane, and carries on her Practice with good Succeſs, notwithſtanding what may have been inſinuated to the contrary.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Royal Eſſence for the Hair of the Head and Perriwigs, being the moſt delicate and charming Perfume in Nature, and the greateſt Preſerver of Hair in the World, for it keeps that of Perriwigs (a much longer time than uſual) in the Curl, and fair Hair from fading or changing colour, makes the Hair of the Head grow thick, ſtrengthens and confirms its Roots, and effectuall prevents it from falling off or ſplitting at the ends, makes the Powder continue in all Hair longer than it poſſibly will, by the uſe of any other thing. By its incomparable Odour and Fragancy it ſtrengthens the Brain, revives the Spirits, quickens the Memory, and makes the Heart chearful, never raiſes the Vapours in Ladies, &c. being wholly free from (and abundantly more delightful and pleaſant than) Muſk, Civet, &c. 'Tis indeed an unparalled fine Scent for the Pocket, and perfumes Handkerchiefs, &c. excellently. To be had only at Mr. *Allcrafts*, a Toyſhop at the Blue-Coat Boy againſt the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*. Sealed up, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a Bottle with Directions.

HYſtericon, or Antidote againſt Fits, Vapours, Hypochondriack Melancholy, Vertigoe, Giddineſs or Swimming in the Head, Phrenzy, or Deprivation of Senſes, Suffocations, or Riſings in the Throat, Faintings, Swoonings, &c. (commonly called Fits of the Mother) for all which, it's a moſt admirable thing for Prevention as well as Cure, whether the Cauſe be Suppreſſion, or Stoppage of the Spleen, &c. or Hypochondriack, ſo admirably prevailing againſt, and taking away the very Cauſe of ſuch Diſtempers, that they ſeldom return again; wonderfully comforts, relieves and cheriſhes Languiſhing Nature, reſtores and corroborates the weaken'd Faculties, revives the Spirits, and enlivens the whole Body, with ſo much Celerity, Eaſe, Safety, and Pleaſure, that it has ſcarcely its Equal. Sold at Mr. Stephens's in Broadſtreet, near the Royal-Exchange, at 1 s. 6 d. a Bottle, with Directions.

Juſt Publiſh'd.

THE Third Edition of the Humble Reſpentation and Complaint of the Lower Houſe of Convocation, againſt the Right Revered the Biſhop of *Sarum*. Printed for G. Sawbridge, at the Three Flower-de-Luces in Little-Britain, and Sold by J. Nutt, near Stationers Hall, 1705. Price 2 d.

Juſt Publiſhed,

THE Engliſh-Nun: Or, a Comical Deſcription of a Nunnery. With the Lives and Intrigues of the Prieſts and Nuns. Written by an Engliſh Lady, who Reſided near Twelve Months in a Nunnery at Bruſſels. The Second Edition, with Additions by the ſame Hand. Printed in the Year, 1705.

Lately Publiſhed,

THE Battles. A Poem. On the late Succeſſes of Her Majeſty's Arms by Sea and Land. Printed for *John Nutt*, near Stationers-Hall, 1705.

THE Golden Odoriferous Eſſence. a moſt Conſummate and Perfect Cephalick: Nothing yet known, that gives ſpeedier, or more certain Help in all Pains of the Head and Vapours, &c. or more Pleaſure in the Uſing. Sold by Samuel Saunders, Periwig-Maker, in Star-Court in Cheapſide near the Conduit. Price One Shilling the Bottle.